

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SPC-03

STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 SCEM-02 INT-08 L-03 NEA-10 AGR-20 TAR-02

NSC-10 SS-20 DRC-01 /189 W
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P R 071820Z NOV 73

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5992

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, ENRG, ETRD, EGEN, EEC

SUBJECT: NOVEMBER 6 EC COUNCIL (FOREIGN MINISTERS)

1. SUMMARY. THE MOST IMPORTANT DISCUSSION AT THE NOVEMBER 6
EC COUNCIL MEETING WAS ON THE OIL SITUATION IN THE COMMUNITY
RESULTING FROM THE ARAB EMBARGO AGAINST THE NETHERLANDS AND THE
DUTCH REQUEST FOR COMMUNITY SOLIDARITY. THIS DISCUSSION BY
THE FOREIGN MINISTERS TOOK PLACE IN A NUMBER OF RESTRICTED
SESSIONS BUT THE COUNCIL WAS UNWILLING TO ADOPT A COMMUNITY
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POSITION BECAUSE OF THE FEAR THIS WOULD ENDANGER THE OVERALL

SUPPLY OF OIL TO THE MEMBER STATES. IN ADDITION TO OIL, THE COUNCIL CONSIDERED A NUMBER OF OTHER SUBJECTS (SUCH AS GATT ARTICLE XXIV:6 AND TEXTILES), BUT TOOK FEW FINAL DECISIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE NOVEMBER U COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION (SEE EC BRUSSELS 630S, THE FOREIGN MINISTERS BEGAN THEIR DISCUSSION OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE OIL SITUATION IN EUROPE RESULTING FROM THE ARAB EMBARGO OF OIL TO THE NETHERLANDS AND THE DUTCH CALL FOR COMMUNITY SOLIDARITY. THIS DISCUSSION COMMENCED AT A DINNER HOSTED BY THE DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER AND CONTINUED UNTIL 3:00 A.M., NOVEMBER 6. THE DISCUSSION WAS RESUMED DURING THE MORNING OF NOVEMBER 6 AND DELAYED THE FINAL OPENING OF THE EC COUNCIL MEETING. THESE RESTRICTED DISCUSSIONS WERE CONTINUED BY THE MINISTERS AT LUNCH. THE DISCUSSIONS WERE NOT IN THE CONTEXT OF A MEETING OF THE EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS BUT, AT FRENCH INSISTENCE, WERE IN THE FRAMEWORK OF EC POLITICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE MEMBER STATES. THE STATEMENT OF THE MEMBER STATES ON THE MIDDLE EAST (SEE BRUSSELS 6275) WAS ISSUED IN THIS FRAMEWORK OF POLITICAL COOPERATION.

3. AT THE INSISTENCE OF THE DUTCH SUPPORTED BY THE OTHER MEMBER STATES, FRANCE SUBSEQUENTLY AGREED TO A DISCUSSION OF OIL IN THE COUNCIL FRAMEWORK THE AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 6, BUT IN A RESTRICTED MINISTERIAL SESSION. THE STATEMENT REPORTED IN EC BRUSSELS 6299 WAS DRAWN UP AT THAT MEETING; THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION (EC BRUSSELS 6226 AND COPENHAGEN 2770). ALL THESE MEETINGS, WHETHER OF THE COUNCIL OR IN THE FRAMEWORK OF POLITICAL COOPERATION, WERE RESTRICTED TO MINISTERS ONLY AND, ON A FEW OCCASIONS, TO MINISTERS PLUS AMBASSADORS (PERM REPS), WITH COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI ALSO PRESENT.

4. AFTER CONSIDERATION OF THE OIL PROBLEM, THE COUNCIL TURNED TO OTHER BUSINESS AND DISCUSSED GATT ARTICLE XXIV:6 (SEE EC BRUSSELS 6314). THE COUNCIL TOOK NO FINAL DECISIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA LISTED IN EC BRUSSELS 6190, EXCEPT FOR CREDIT INSURANCE (WHERE A DECISION CALLING FOR CONSULTATION AND PROVISION OF INFORMATION WAS ADOPTED) AND TEXTILES (SEE BELOW. IN THE OTHER CASES IT EITHER POSTPONED FURTHER DIS-

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CUSSION UNTIL LATER OR REFERRED THE MATTER BACK TO THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES.

5. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE COUNCIL PRESS RELEASE ON THE COUNCIL'S DISCUSSION OF TEXTILES: BEGIN TEXT. THE COUNCIL, AFTER EXAMINING THE PROBLEMS OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE DRAWING UP OF A MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT ON WORLD TRADE IN TEXTILE PRODUCTS ("ALL FIBRES" ARRANGEMENT), AUTHORISED THE COMMISSION

TO TAKE PART IN THE NEGOTIATIONS TO CONCLUDE SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT
ON THE BASIS OF DIRECTIVES ALREADY LAID DOWN BY THE COUNCIL.
THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE WAS INSTRUCTED TO CON-
TINUE ITS EXAMINATION OF THOSE PROBLEMS ON WHICH OPINIONS STILL
DIFFER. END TEXT.

6. SOURCES IN THE COMMISSION AND THE PERMANENT DELEGATIONS HAVE
INFORMED US THAT THERE WAS A RATHER CONFUSING DISCUSSION ON TEXTILES
IN THE COUNCIL, WITH GERMANY AND THE UK OPPOSING THE OTHER SEVEN
ON CERTAIN POINTS. THE MANDATE WHICH THE COMMISSION RECEIVED
IS NOT TOO CLEAR, AND ITS IMPLICATIONS WILL HAVE TO BE WORKED
OUT IN GENEVA AMONG THE COMMISSION AND THE MEMBER STATES.

7 THERE WILL BE A COUNCIL MEETING OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC
MINISTERS ON NOVEMBER 9. A COUNCIL MEETING OF AGRICULTURAL
MINISTERS WILL TAKE PLACE ON NOVEMBER 19-20. THE FOREIGN
MINISTERS HOLD A COUNCIL MEETING AGAIN ON DECEMBER 3-4.
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